



## Fond du Lac County Health Department

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**Public Health**  
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**Fond du Lac County  
Health Department**

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### **COVID-19: When to Seek Emergency Care - Do Not Go to the ER for a COVID-19 Test**

With COVID-19 testing demand increasing, many people are showing up to or calling emergency departments to get a test. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Fond du Lac County offers free community testing to individuals with minor symptoms. To schedule an appointment, call (844) 225-0147. Emergency departments are not set up as locations for community testing.

To help with increasing demand for testing needs, a second testing location is being added as of October 12 that will provide more convenient access to individuals in the Ripon and Waupun areas. "Patients experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, as does 80 percent of patients with COVID, should call their primary care provider or the COVID-19 Clinic at (844) 225-0147," says Kim Mueller, Fond du Lac County Health Officer. Patients will complete a screening on the phone before being directed to a testing location.

"Despite COVID-19, all the usual serious, acute and urgent injuries or illnesses we manage are still occurring and must be prioritized in the emergency department designed to handle them," according to Syed G. Mohiuddin, MD, medical director with Ripon Medical Center and Waupun Memorial Hospital Emergency Departments. "It's important that we reserve our resources for the critical needs our patients and their families are facing."

Ripon Medical Center, St. Agnes Hospital and Waupun Memorial Hospital want to ensure emergency care is available when needed. People do not need to visit the emergency departments unless an individual is experiencing severe symptoms. Even if people believe they're showing early symptoms of COVID-19, the emergency department is not a place to visit unless you feel an individual's symptoms are worsening and emergency medical attention is needed, such as trouble breathing.

"When you believe you have something and there's a lot of concern out there and fear, sometimes the place you turn to is the emergency department," says Dr. Mohiuddin. "While I definitely sympathize with the community, we have to reserve this level of care for individuals that are really sick and need care immediately."

To learn more, visit the Fond du Lac County COVID-19 page at [www.fdlco.wi.gov](http://www.fdlco.wi.gov).

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